

• SUPERMAN •
DC
NATIONAL COMICS

SHOWCASE

presents

APR.
NO. 61

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
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AUTHORITY

The SPECTRE!

12¢

A BOOK-LENGTH
SPECTRE-ACULAR...
"BEYOND THE
SINISTER
BARRIER"



THEY FOUGHT
for POSSESSION
of EARTH--
with EARTH ITSELF
as the WEAPON!

The SPECTRE!



STORY: GARDNER FOX

ART: MURPHY ANDERSON

BILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, THE FIRST PRIMAL ATOM EXPLODED TO CREATE THE EONS AND PLANETS -- PLANTS AND ANIMALS -- GOOD AND EVIL !

FOR LONG EONS EVIL HAS EXISTED IN THE PSYCHO-MATTER UNIVERSE OF DIS -- AWAITING THAT MOMENT OUT OF TIME WHEN IT COULD BREAK THROUGH AND DOMINATE THE EARTH ! ASSIGNED TO THWART THIS THREAT IS THE SPECTRE -- THE ONLY ONE POSSESSING POWER ENOUGH TO KEEP THE FORCE OF EVIL PENNED UP --

BEYOND the SINISTER BARRIER!

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ALONG THE SCORCHING
SANDS OF THE GOBI
DESERT STAGGERS
A MONGOLIAN BANDIT,
HIS TONGUE SWOLLEN,
HIS SENSES REELING
FROM THIRST...



WATER ! DEMON SPIRITS OF THE
DESERT--GIVE ME WATER ! I
DIE IF I DO NOT HAVE IT !

SUDDENLY, AHEAD OF HIM...

A POOL OF WATER !
THANKS TO MERKYUT,
THE HEAVENLY BIRD
WHICH GUIDES ALL
TRAVELERS !



AIEEE ! IT
WAS ONLY
A MIRAGE !
THIS IS
SAND--
NOT WATER !

DESPAIR NOT !
I WOULD
WILLINGLY CHANGE
THE SAND TO WATER
AGAIN FOR A SMALL
PRICE--YOUR
SHADOW !



WHO
SPEAKS ?
WHO
BARTERS
WITH ME
FOR MY
LIFE ?

IT IS I--
SHATHAN THE
ETERNAL !
MASTER OF
DIS, RULER
OF THE PSYCHO-
MATTER WORLDS !
DO YOU SELL ME
YOUR SHADOW--
YES OR NO ?



M-MY
LIFE
FOR MY
SHADOW ?
YES--
YES !
TAKE IT--
BUT GIVE
ME WATER !

SO BE IT !
YOUR
SHADOW
BELONGS
TO ME !
NOW--
DRINK !



THERE IS NO LONGER
ANY SANDS UPON THE
HOT SANDS OF THE
DESERT ! ONLY THE
PARCHED BANDIT, SLURP-
ING UP WATER...



SOME DAYS LATER IN FRANCE, SPELLUNKER ANDRE VOISIN FINDS HIMSELF TRAPPED BY A CAVE-IN, WHEN SUDDENLY...

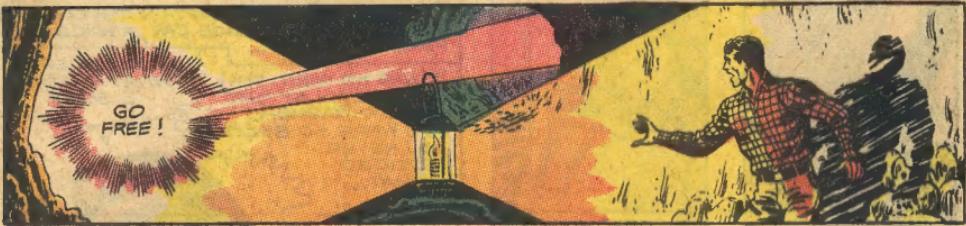
HELP! HELP! GET ME OUT OF HERE!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE! CAN'T ANYONE HEAR ME?

I ANSWER YOUR CALL!
YOU CAN KEEP YOUR LIFE--FOR A PRICE!



HUH? WHO'S THERE?
OH, WHAT DOES IT MATTER! I'LL SELL YOU ANYTHING IF YOU'LL SAVE ME--EVEN MY SOUL!

YOUR SOUL IS OF NO USE TO ME--BUT YOUR SHADOW IS! AND SINCE THE SELLING PRICE IS AGREEABLE--



IN AFRICA, WORLD-RENNED BIG GAME HUNTER OLIVE MORELL FACES A MADDENED ELEPHANT WHEN...



MY LIFE IS PRICELESS--MY SHADOW VALUELESS!
GIVE ME THAT BULLET!



NEXT-IN GATEWAY CITY, A WINDOW-WASHER FEELS HIS SAFETY BELT SNAP AS...

FALLING FORTY STORIES! MY LIFE'S NOT WORTH A--



HEARING THINGS! MUST BE OUT OF MY MIND! BUT WHAT CAN I LOSE?



HE LANDED AS LIGHTLY AS A FEATHER! I WHAT A LUCKY GUY! HE MUST HAVE BEEN SAVED BY A SUDDEN UP-DRAFT OF WIND!



FROM THE BODY OF JIM CORRIGAN, DETECTIVE, HE COMES--THIS EERIE BEING KNOWN AS THE SPECTRE, WHOSE DARING EXPLOITS HAVE HELPED TO HOLD IN CHECK THE CRIME LORDS OF THE EARTH, WHOSE POWERS BORDER ON THE SPECTACULAR AND THE WEIRD...

I SENSE AN EVIL AURA DEEP INSIDE THAT MAN! I MUST FOLLOW HIM-- DISCOVER WHAT ALIEN AND MYSTERIOUS FORCES ARE AT WORK HERE ON EARTH!



INVISIBLE TO ALL EYES, HE STALKS THE WINDOW-WASHER. SUDDENLY...

I'M BEING GRIPPED BY SOME FORM OF ECTO-PLASMIC MAGNETISM! IT'S DRAWING ME TOWARD THAT WINDOW-WASHER! I--AM POWERLESS-- TO STOP IT!



NEVER ENCOUNTERED AN EERIE FORCE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE!



THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN IS DRAWN INSIDE THE WINDOW-WASHER'S BODY-- WHERE A DARK, SINISTER SHADOW WAITS TO ENFOLD HIM...

THE MISSING SHADOW-- EMITTING EVIL ENERGY BUILDING IN FRIGHTFUL FURY!

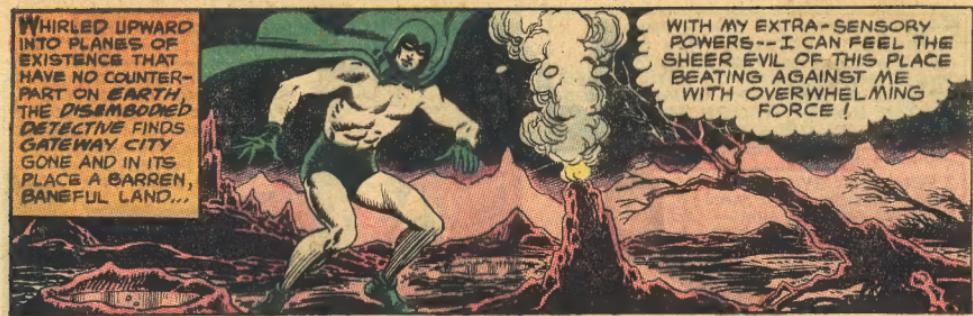


AS SPIRIT DUELS WITH SHADOW, UN-NATURAL FORCES SEethe AND STIR, GATHERING EXPLOSIVE PRESSURE UNTIL...

THE PSYCHIC DETONATION IS HURLING ME COMPLETELY OUT OF THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE--



WHIRLED UPWARD
INTO PLANES OF
EXISTENCE THAT
HAVE NO COUNTER-
PART ON EARTH,
THE DISEMBODIED
DETECTIVE FINDS
GATEWAY CITY
GONE AND IN ITS
PLACE A BARREN,
BANEFUL LAND...



RACING TOWARD
HIM, THEIR EMPTY
EYES ALIGHT
WITH EVIL, COME
THE DEMONIC
DENIZENS OF
THIS ELDRITCH
WORLD...



BUT--AS THE
FIRST FLAIL
IS PLUNG...



THE DEADLY DOOM
DESIGNED TO DE-
STROY THE ACE OF
SHADES CONTINUES
ON THE 5TH
PAGE FOLLOWING!

A FABULOUS FIRST! INTRODUCING THE CHALLENGER CORPS!

WHO ARE THESE STRANGERS
WHY DO THEY FORM THE WORLD'S
WHAT WEIRDEST CLUB
WHERE IS THE SINISTER BOND
TYING THEM TOGETHER
DO THEY REVEAL THEIR
STARTLING SECRET

The Chall, THOSE FOUR FAMOUS FEAR-FIGHTERS, GET THE
SHOCK OF THEIR LIVES, AND SO WILL **YOU**--
IN THIS TRIPLE-THREAT THRILLER...
'The Tyrant Who Owned the World!'





BEYOND the SINISTER BARRIER

PART
2

WEAPON AFTER WEAPON STRIKING
THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN SENDS HIM
REELING ! IN MINGLED SHOCK AND
SURPRISE, HE BATTLES BACK,
LASHING OUT WITH SAVAGE FISTS !

NEVER BEFORE HAS HE BEEN
SUBJECTED TO SUCH A DEADLY
GAME OF GIVE-AND-TAKE ---
WHERE HIS LIFE ESSENCE
MIGHT AT ANY MOMENT
BE DRIVEN FROM HIS
SPIRIT SHAPE !

AND OUR WEAPONS CAN
DESTROY YOU BECAUSE
THEY--LIKE US--ARE OF
THE SAME STRUCTURE
AS YOUR BODY !



IN THIS WORLD
OF DIS WE ARE ALL
NON-MATTER--
JUST AS YOU ARE,
SPECTRE !



THE ODDS AGAINST
HIM ARE TERRIBLE,
BUT THE SPECTRE
IS A FIGHTER !
HE LIFTS AND
HURLS TSATHHALA
OF THE HUNDRED
SEAS INTO THE
DEMONIAC
AFRIAN
OF THE
WINDY
WORLDS ...



THE ABOMINATIONS OF ALL
TIME ARE HERE ! THESE
FIENDS ARE THE LIVING
INCARNATION OF EVERY
EVIL KNOWN TO MAN !



THIS EVIL IS SEEKING
TO ESCAPE FROM THE
WORLD OF DIS -- INTO
EARTH ! BUT WHY ?
AND WHO CAN BE
BEHIND IT ?



STRUGGLE AS HE WILL --
THE DEMONS ARE TOO
MANY IN NUMBER FOR
THE DISCARINATE DE-
TECTIVE ! INDIVIDUALLY
IMBUE WITH POWERS
EQUAL ALMOST TO HIS
OWN, THEY ATTACK
SAVAGELY, FURIOUSLY...

I SENSE ALSO THAT I
AM THE ONLY THING ON
EARTH WHO CAN PRE-
VENT THIS INVASION OF
EVIL ! I WAS LURED
HERE -- TO BE DE-
STROYED ! TO CLEAR
THE PATH FOR --
WHAT ... ?



I HAVE ONE TRICK STILL
IN RESERVE ! IF THAT
FAILS ME ON THIS
WORLD -- BUT NO !
I MUST NOT
FAIL !



I AM NOT BOUND BY
ORDINARY LAWS ! I
CAN MAKE MYSELF
AS LARGE AS THE
VERY UNIVERSE !



I'LL GROW UNTIL I
BECOME SO NEBULOUS...



...THAT THE WEAPONS OF
THE DEMONS WILL PASS
BETWEEN THE SPACES
OF THE ATOMS WHICH
MAKE UP MY BODY !



NOW HIS PSYCHO-MATTER BODY IS
HUNDREDS--THOUSANDS--
MILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS
LARGE !
COMETS--SUNS--
GALAXIES--PASS
HARMLESSLY
THROUGH HIS
SUPER-GIANT
SHAPE ...

I MUST CONCENTRATE AGAIN--WILL
THE FLOATING PARTICLES OF MY
SUBSTANCE TO REGROUP THEM-
SELVES BACK ON THE EARTH OF
MY BIRTH !



NEXT MOMENT HE
STANDS IN THE
WISPY FOG BLOW-
ING IN OFF THE
WATERS OF GATE-
WAY HARBOR,
WHERE THE FOG-
HORNS BUILD A
MOURNFUL
SYMPHONY IN
THE MISTY
AIR ...

KKKKKHOO--KKKKKKHOO



THAT'S ODD ! THE
FOGHORNS
SEEM TO BE
MAKING
INTELLIGIBLE
SOUNDS--TO
ME !

THE PSYCHIC
EARS OF
THE SPIRIT
SLEUTH
MAKE
SENSE OF
THOSE
BLARING
HORNS,
HEAR
THEM AS
WORDS...

YOU ARE PUZZLED, SPECTRE ! SHAKEN BY WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN
AND EXPERIENCED ! KNOW YOU THAT THE FORCES OF EVIL ARE
ABROAD ON EARTH ! NOT LONG AGO AZMODUS SOUGHT TO
UNLEASH UNIVERSAL WICKEDNESS -- BUT YOU STOPPED HIM ! *

* SEE SHOWCASE #60 : WAR THAT SHOOK THE UNIVERSE !

NON SHATHAN THE
ETERNAL SEEKS TO RIP
THE SINISTER BARRIER
BETWEEN THE WORLD
OF DIS AND EARTH!
ALREADY HE HAS SOUGHT
TO DESTROY YOU, FOR HE
KNOWS THAT THROUGH
YOU MUST BE FOUGHT
THE COMING BATTLE
OF GOOD--AND EVIL!



YOU HAVE THE POWER
TO ELIMINATE TIME, TO
ALLY YOURSELF TO ITS
STEADY FLOW! GO BACK
NOW-- TO THE VERY
BEGINNINGS OF ALL
THINGS, AND KNOW
FROM WHENCE THIS
SHATHAN SPRINGS!

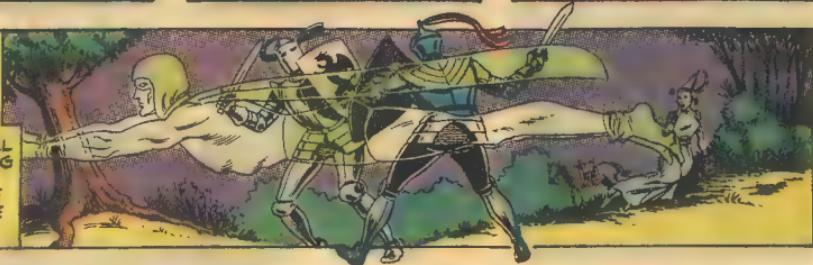


THE SPECTRE POSSESSES
THE POWER TO PULSEATE HIS
SPIRIT FORM, TO MERGE IT
WITH THE PULSE OF TIME
ITSELF, TO FLOW FORWARD
OR BACKWARD IN TIME ...

TIME IS -- ALWAYS! IN TIME
THERE IS NO ACTUAL PAST
OR FUTURE. ONLY THE
FINITE SENSES OF MAN
INVENT SUCH DIFFERENCES,
FOR OTHERWISE MAN
COULD NOT EXIST! AS
I PULSEATE, I BECOME
A PART OF TIME ...



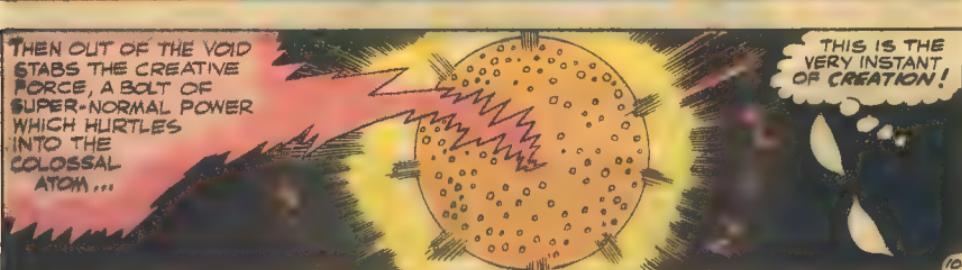
BACKWARD
HE FLOWS
THROUGH
THE STREAM
OF AGES
AND EONS,
A PART OF ALL
THAT IS TAKING
PLACE, HAS
TAKEN PLACE
OR WILL TAKE
PLACE ...



UNTIL HE COMES TO
THAT VERY FIRST
MOMENT IN TIME
12 BILLION YEARS
BEFORE, WHEN ALL
THAT EXISTS IS THE
PRIMAL ATOM --
IMMENSE BEYOND
BELIEF--COSMICALLY
GIGANTIC ...

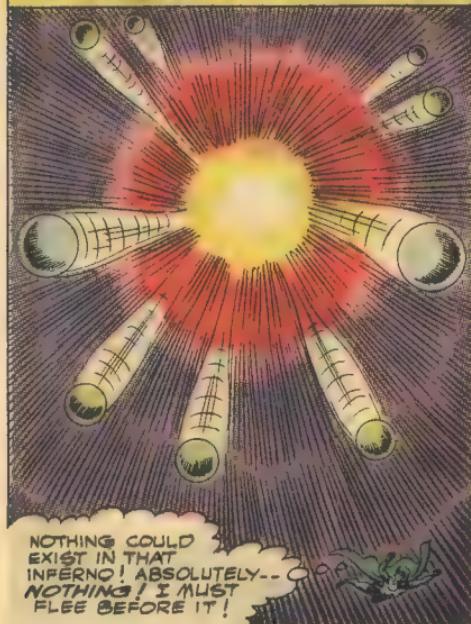
EVERYTHING WHICH IS
TO BE IN THE UNIVERSE
IS CONTAINED IN THAT
ATOM!

THEN OUT OF THE VOID
STABS THE CREATIVE
FORCE, A BOLT OF
SUPER-NORMAL POWER
WHICH HURLES
INTO THE
COLOSSAL
ATOM ...



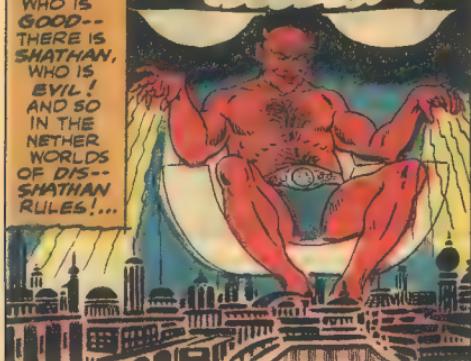
THIS IS THE
VERY INSTANT
OF CREATION!

MATTER EXPLODES! OUT TO FILL THE VOID OF A NOW-EXPANDING UNIVERSE--EVENTUALLY TO MAKE STARS AND PLANETS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS--RUSH THE ATOMIC PARTICLES...



FOR EVERY GOOD THERE IS AN-EVIL! FOR HIM WHO IS GOOD-- THERE IS SHATHAN, WHO IS EVIL AND SO IN THE NETHER WORLDS OF DIS-- SHATHAN RULES!...

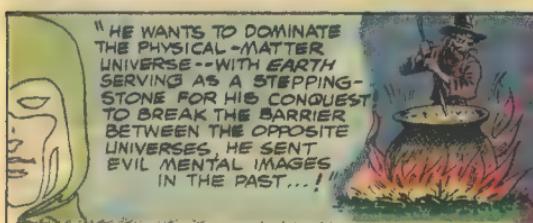
"SHATHAN APPEARED TO THE DEMONS OF DIS, AND IS WORSHIPED BY THEM! IT IS THAT WORSHIP WHICH GIVES HIM-- EXISTENCE!!"



AT THIS SAME MOMENT--FOR EVERY ACTION MUST HAVE AN EQUAL AND OPPOSITE REACTION--ANOTHER UNIVERSE IS FORMED BY IMPLOSION--A NETHER UNIVERSE...



"AS LONG AS THERE IS A BELIEF IN HIM, SHATHAN EXISTS! HE IS REVERED IN HIS UNIVERSE--AND BEING EVIL, SOUGHT TO BE MASTER OF MORE THAN THE PSYCHO-MATTER COSMOS OF DIS!"



"BUT--THE
FORCES OF
GOOD WERE
NOT ASLEEP!
GREAT MEN
ROSE UP
TO LEAD THE
WAY OF
GOODNESS..."



MOSES... PETER... BUDDHA... MOHAMMED...

"SLOWLY THOSE
POWERS OF GOOD
PUSHED BACK THE
EVIL! HAD THEY
NOT--GOOD WOULD
NOT HAVE BEEN BE-
LIEVED IN--AND SO
WOULD HAVE CEASED
TO EXIST..."

"CENTURIES LATER,
SHATHAN THE
ETERNAL SENT HIS
PERSONALLY
TRAINED DEPUTY--
AZMODUS--INTO
EARTH TO PAVE
THE WAY FOR HIS
OWN APPEARANCE..."

"AZMODUS CAME
CLOSE TO SUCCEED-
ING BUT I DEFEATED
HIM, PLACING HIM IN
NO-TIME AND
NO-SPACE..."



"I COULD NOT HEAR
HIS LAST THOUGHT--
UNTIL NOW, AS THE
ESSENCE OF
GOODNESS SURGES
THROUGH ME, OPENING
THE
DOOR-
WAYS
OF
PAST,
PRESENT
AND
FUTURE."

"I HAVE LOST--BUT YOU HAVE NOT
WON, SPECTRE. AS YOU SHALL
LEARN WHEN MY SINISTER
SCHEME UNFOLDS ON EARTH--
SOON--VERY SOON..."



THE SINISTER PLAN OF AZMODUS IS NOW REVEALED IN THE MIND OF THE SPECTRE..

AZMODUS SET EERIE FORCES IN MOTION WHICH PERMITTED HIS MASTER SHATHAN TO BREAK THROUGH THE SINISTER BARRIER AND ENTER EARTH! BY SECURING THE SHADOWS OF WILLING VICTIMS ON THE VERGE OF DEATH AND IMPRISONING THEM IN THE BODIES OF THEIR FORMER OWNERS, HE HAS CREATED A LOYAL FOLLOWING OF EARTH PEOPLE!



MOMENTARILY EXHAUSTED BY HIS TRIP THROUGH TIME AND THE NETHER UNIVERSE OF DIS, THE SPIRIT SLEUTH RETURNS INTO THE BODY OF JIM CORRIGAN, JUST AS....



BY BELIEVING IN SHATHAN, HIS SUBJECTS CAUSE HIM TO EXIST ON EARTH!

HE WILL GROW MORE POWERFUL--AND BLOT OUT THE BELIEF IN GOOD! THEN ONLY EVIL WILL DOMINATE THE WORLD...

I ALONE--AS THE DEPUTY OF GOOD--AS AZMODUS WAS THE DEPUTY OF SHATHAN--CAN PREVENT THIS! IT IS MY DUTY--PERHAPS EVEN THE VERY REASON WHY THE SPECTRE WAS BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE, YEARS AGO...



HE PAYS NO HEED TO THE FACT THAT DETECTIVE CAPTAIN CORRIGAN IS HIMSELF FIGHTING FOR LAW AND ORDER...



TO EACH HIS OWN : TO THE SPECTRE THE TROUBLES OF THE PSYCHO-WORLD, TO JIM CORRIGAN THE COMPARATIVELY PETTY CRIMES OF ERRANT HUMANS...



YOU'RE THE BRAINS BEHIND THE WAREHOUSE ROBBERIES GANG-- AND YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN THEM-- IN JAIL...



ONLY THE SPECTRE SENSES THE RAW EVIL SURROUNDING THE ELEVATOR AS IT STARTS ITS LONG FALL TO DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ON THE GROUND FAR BELOW...

I SENSE THE EVIL OF SHATHAN THE ETERNAL! HE BROKE THE CABLE...



SO INTENT IS JIM CORRIGAN ON HIS OWN BATTLE OF GOOD OVER EVIL THAT HE DOES NOT HEAR THE FAINT SNICK OF PARTING ELEVATOR CABLES...



THE DISCARNEATE--
DETECTIVE FLOWS
OUT OF THE CAR,
DROPS DOWNWARD,
HIS HAND LIFTING
TO CATCH AND
CRADLE THE FALLING
ELEVATOR ...

WHY SHOULD THE
EVIL ONE CON-
CERN HIMSELF
WITH KILLING
JIM CORRIGAN?
SURELY, HE
POSES NO
THREAT TO
SHATHAN!

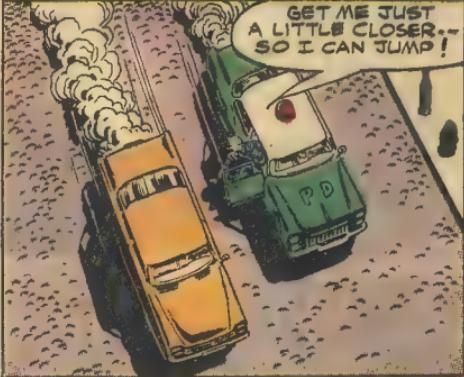
SLOWLY HE
SHRINKS, GENTLY
LOWERING THE
CAR...



I'LL SAVE JIM'S
LIFE--AND THAT
OF THE CROOK--!
BUT IF ONLY I
KNEW WHY SHATHAN
ATTACKED THEM!
IT MIGHT ENABLE
ME TO KNOW WHAT
TO DO!

THERE IS NO ANSWER TO THE QUESTION
IN THE MIND OF THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN,
WHO MAKES THE POLICE ROUNDS WITH
JIM CORRIGAN NEXT DAY...

GET ME JUST
A LITTLE CLOSER--
SO I CAN JUMP!



MADE IT! I'VE
GOT A GOOD
GRIP ON HIM!

LEGOO!
OR--I'LL
CR-CRASH!

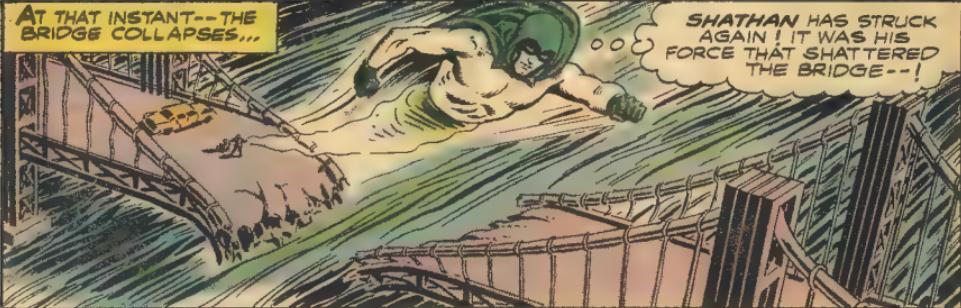


AS THE CAR
SLAMS INTO
A BRIDGE-
GUARD RAIL...



AT THAT INSTANT--THE
BRIDGE COLLAPSES...

SHATHAN HAS STRUCK
AGAIN! IT WAS HIS
FORCE THAT SHATTERED
THE BRIDGE--!



THE PSYCHIC
ENERGIES
OF THE
SPIRIT
SLEUTH
ARE SO
GREAT THAT
AS FAST AS
SHATHAN
DESTROYS
THE BRIDGE
SO THE
SPECTRE
REBUILDS IT...

OF COURSE! SHATHAN IS KEEPING
ME BUSY--TO GIVE HIMSELF TIME TO
ASSEMBLE THE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE
SHADOWS HE OWNS! WHEN THEY BEGIN
WORSHIPPING HIM AND BELIEVE IN HIM--
EVIL FORCES WILL BE SET IN MOTION TO
ENABLE HIM TO DOMINATE
THIS WORLD!

I MUST MOVE NOW TO
STOP HIM! WITH PARA-
NORMAL SENSES I WILL
TRACK DOWN SHATHAN
AND HIS WORSHIPPERS!



BUT-- WILL THE MIGHTY SPECTRE BE ABLE TO OVER-
COME THE EVIL ONE-- WHEN THEY MEET IN COMBAT?
GREAT INDEED ARE THE POWERS OF THE SPECTRE--
BUT JUST AS MIGHTY ARE THOSE OF SHATHAN THE
ETERNAL!
THE COLOSSAL CONCLUSION STARTS ON THE 4TH
PAGE FOLLOWING!



16

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
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7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given.): National Periodical Publications, Inc., Estate of Harry Donenfeld, J. S. Liebowitz, P. H. Sampliner, Irwin Donenfeld,

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9. Paragraphs 7 and 8 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner. Names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders of a corporation which itself is a stockholder or holder of bonds, mortgages or other securities of the publishing corporation have been included in paragraphs 7 and 8 when the interests of such individuals are equivalent to 1 percent or more of the total amount of the stock or securities of the publishing corporation.

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
Irwin Donenfeld, Business Manager.

BEYOND the SINISTER BARRIER

PART
3

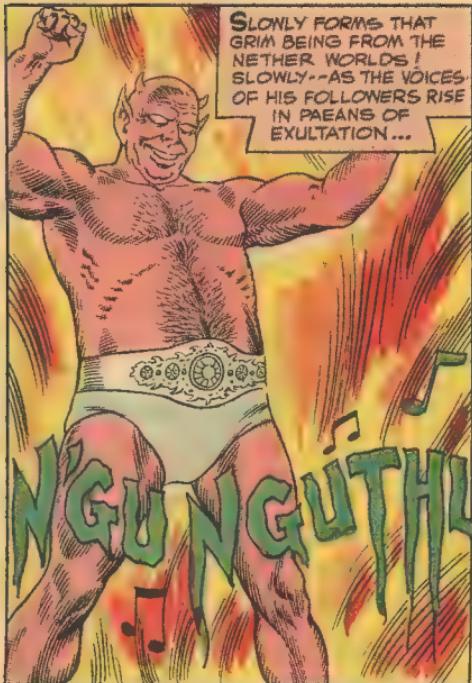
I AM -- TOO
LATE!
SHATHAN
IS ON EARTH!



STHUGLU THALLA OF HULKAH
KHUT MOLLU-SH

IN A LONG-FORGOTTEN
TEMPLE GATHER THE
SHADOW-SELLERS TO
WORSHIP SHATHAN!
THEIR VOICES ARE RAISED
IN AN ANCIENT CHORUS--
A CHANT THAT COMPELS THE
PRESENCE OF SHATHAN--
A PAEAN THAT SHATTERS
THE BARRIERS BETWEEN
DIS AND EARTH -- A
SONG WHOSE VERY EVIL
ALERTS THE DISCARNEATE
DETECTIVE TO
ITS EXISTENCE!





ONLY FORMS THAT
GRIM BEING FROM THE
NETHER WORLDS !
SLOWLY--AS THE VOICES
OF HIS FOLLOWERS RISE
IN PAEANS OF
EXULTATION...



THOSE VOICES SOAR IN ECSTACY ! FOR NOW
SHATHAN THE ETERNAL FIRMS SOLIDLY
BEFORE THEM--EYES GLOWING REDLY WITH
ANCIENT EVIL , LIPS CURVING GRIMLY IN
TRIUMPH...

THE WORSHIP OF MY
FOLLOWERS ON EARTH ,
THOSE WHO SOLD ME THEIR
SHADOWS--HAS BROKEN THE
BARRIERS BETWEEN THE
WORLDS !

FROM ABOVE, THE SPECTRE
DROPS SWIFTLY LIKE A HUNTING
FALCON...

YOU CAN DO
NOTHING AGAINST ME,
SPECTRE ! WHAT MATTERS
NOW IS NOT YOUR FAILURE
BUT MY
TRIUMPH !

DESPERATELY,
ILLED
WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE
THAT HE IS
LEAPING INTO
A BATTLE
MORE DEADLY
THAN ANY HE
HAS EVER
FOUGHT, THE
SPIRIT
SLEUTH
RAMS INTO
HIS QUARRY...

HE'S GOING THROUGH
THE STONE OF THE
TEMPLE WALL !

HA ! HA ! BEING OF
PSYCHO-MATTER
LIKE YOU, I AM NOT
AFFECTED BY MATERIAL
THINGS !



IN THAT CASE YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO FEEL MY
PSYCHO-FIST !



NEVER BEFORE HAVE I
BEEN STRUCK ! I--DO
NOT LIKE IT !

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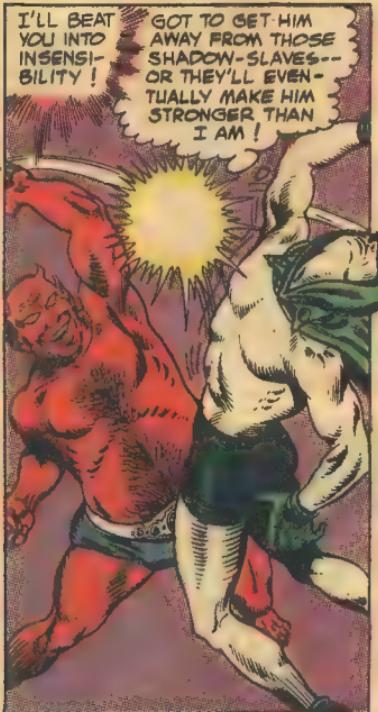
EVEN AS HE REELS BACK, SHATHAN SENDS A MENTAL COMMAND TO HIS FOLLOWERS TO SING AGAIN...



I CAN SHAKE OFF THE EFFECTS OF YOUR BLOW, THANKS TO MY WORSHIPPERS! AND AS THEIR CHANT GIVES ME EXTRA STRENGTH AND POWER...

I'LL BEAT YOU INTO INSENSIBILITY!

GOT TO GET HIM AWAY FROM THOSE SHADOW-SLAVES-- OR THEY'LL EVENTUALLY MAKE HIM STRONGER THAN I AM!



GRIPPING HIS FOE, THE GHOSTLY GUARDIAN ROCKETS SPACEWARD...

ONLY BY TAKING HIM FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM HIS FOLLOWERS, WILL I HAVE A CHANCE TO DEFEAT HIM!



THEN--AS THE SPECTRE SUDDENLY UNLEASHES A SAVAGE BLOW...

YOU MISSED!



BUT THAT BLOW HAS NOT ENDED! FOR WITH SPEED BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION THAT AWESOME PSYCHO-MATTER FIST HURLES ON AND ON ACROSS THE HUNDREDS OF BILLION-LIGHT-YEARS OF THE UNIVERSE...



TO RETURN-- SINCE SPACE- TIME IS CURVED-- AND BELT THE DICTATOR OF DIS FROM BEHIND...



THOUGH DAZED, THE EVIL ONE GRAPPLES WITH SPECTRE, WHO TWISTS THEIR ANGLE OF FALL UNTIL THE MASSIVE, FIERY BALL OF SOL LOOMS BELOW...

ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR ME TO GET RID OF YOU, SPECTRE-- AND THIS ENTIRE MATTER UNIVERSE WILL WORSHIP ONLY ME !



DEEP, DEEP, DEEP INTO THE HEART OF THE FIERY FURNACE WHICH IS THE SUN THEY PLUNGE ! FIGHTING, WRESTLING, SEEKING LETHAL HOLDS ON ONE ANOTHER, THEY STRUGGLE ON ...

EVEN THE 25 MILLION DEGREE HEAT OF THE SUN CANNOT HARM HIM AS I'D HOPED ! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN AFFECT HIM ! AND YET--



YET SHATHAN IS NOT ALL-KNOWING, THOUGH HE SEEMINGLY IS ALL-POWERFUL ! HE IS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS MATTER UNIVERSE AS HE IS WITH HIS OWN WORLD OF DIS ! THEREIN LIES MY ONLY HOPE OF VICTORY !



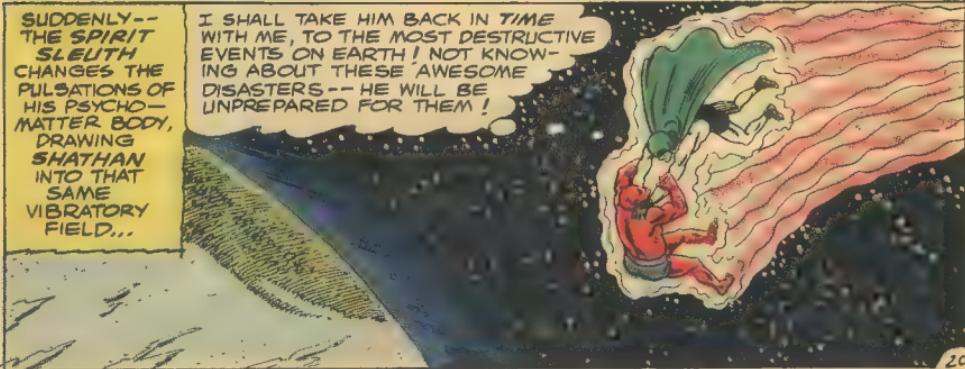
OUT OF THE SUN AND THROUGH THE DARK DEPTHS OF SPACE HURTEL THE GRAPPLING FIGURES...

I MUST USE THE FORCES OF GOOD... ONE OF WHICH IS TIME THAT HEALS ALL WOUNDS !



SUDDENLY-- THE SPIRIT SLEUTH CHANGES THE PULSATIONS OF HIS PSYCHO-MATTER BODY, DRAWING SHATHAN INTO THAT SAME VIBRATORY FIELD...

I SHALL TAKE HIM BACK IN TIME WITH ME, TO THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE EVENTS ON EARTH ! NOT KNOWING ABOUT THESE AWESOME DISASTERS-- HE WILL BE UNPREPARED FOR THEM !



GRIPPING THE DEMON DICTATOR OF DIS, THE SPECTRE DROPS DOWNWARD OVER THE SOVIET UNION ON THE 30TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1961--FIVE YEARS IN THE PAST...

SHATHAN ISN'T AWARE OF IT--BUT THE RUSSIANS ARE ABOUT TO DETONATE A 57-MEGATHON THERMO-NUCLEAR BOMB, THE LARGEST MAN-MADE EXPLOSION IN HISTORY!



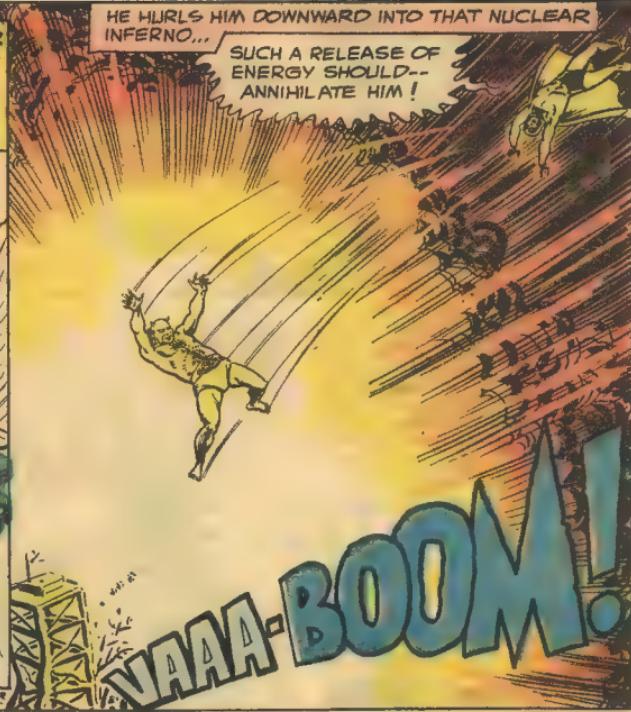
YET EVEN THAT TERRIFYING BLAST DOES NO MORE THAN SHAKE UP SHATHAN...

GOT TO TRY ANOTHER DISASTER--AND QUICKLY, BEFORE HE RECOVERS HIS STRENGTH!



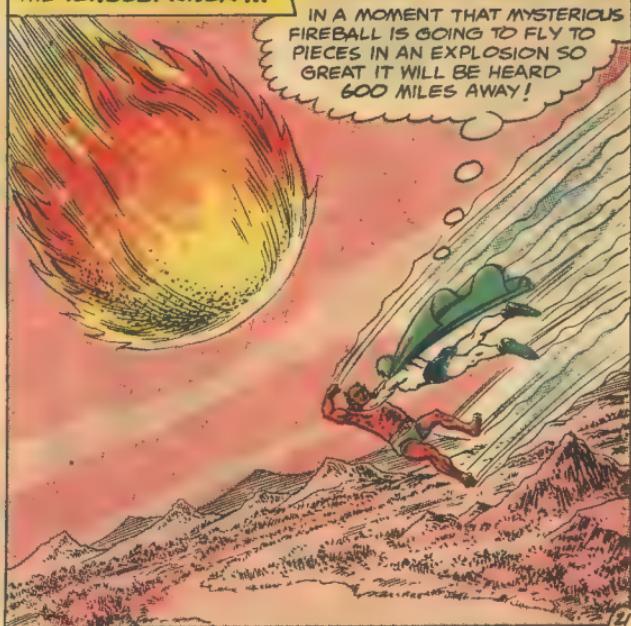
HE HURLS HIM DOWNWARD INTO THAT NUCLEAR INFERNO...

SUCH A RELEASE OF ENERGY SHOULD-- ANNIHILATE HIM!



BACKWARD THROUGH TIME FLEES THE SPIRIT SLEUTH WITH HIS EERIE ENEMY--TO SIBERIA OF JUNE 30, 1908--AS A GREAT FIREBALL ROARS DOWN FROM THE SKY NEAR THE YENESEI RIVER...

IN A MOMENT THAT MYSTERIOUS FIREBALL IS GOING TO FLY TO PIECES IN AN EXPLOSION SO GREAT IT WILL BE HEARD 600 MILES AWAY!



EVEN IN THE YEAR 1886, NO MAN IS ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHAT THIS MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION WAS OR WHERE THE FIREBALL CAME FROM! SOME BELIEVE IT WAS A SPACESHIP FROM ANOTHER WORLD THAT BLEW UP IN OUR ATMOSPHERE, OTHERS THEORIZE OUR UNIVERSE WAS INVADED BY A CHUNK OF ANTI-MATTER...



THOUGH OBVIOUSLY WEAKENED BY THE AWESOME BLAST THAT CAUSED FLAMES TWELVE MILES HIGH, SHATHAN IS STILL CONSCIOUS AND MORE VICIOUS THAN EVER...

THERE WAS AN EVEN MORE DEADLY EXPLOSION--A QUARTER OF A CENTURY BEFORE! PERHAPS THAT WILL OVERCOME HIM!



HIGH ABOVE THE ISLAND OF KRAKATOA ON THAT FATEFUL DAY OF AUGUST 21, 1883...



...INTO THE RED GLARE AND BUBBLING LAVA OF THAT BROMIDINGNAGIAN BLOW-UP HE HURLS HIM, EVEN AS THE ENTIRE ISLAND ERUPTS FROM THE SEA!...

THE ISLAND WAS BLOWN TO BITS, 18 SQUARE MILES OF LAND DISAPPEARING FOREVER IN THE BLAST! A COLUMN OF DUST AND STONES WAS BLOWN 17 MILES INTO THE AIR!



YET EVEN NOW, SHATHAN IS ALIVE, SURVIVOR OF THE GREATEST CATASTROPHE OF ITS TYPE EVER RECORDED! IT WAS HEARD 25,000 MILES AWAY! IT KILLED 35,000 PEOPLE! IT CAUSED TIDAL WAVES AS FAR AWAY AS ENGLAND!...

I HAVE ONE LAST-DITCH HOPE! IF THAT FAILS -- NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!



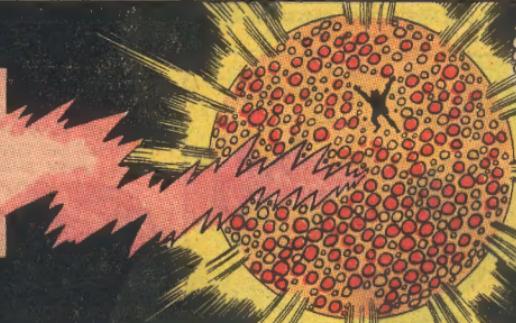
BACK--BACK--
BACK THROUGH
TIME RACES
THE SPIRIT
SLEUTH WITH HIS OCCULT
OPPONENT--
UNTIL THE
STRUGGLING
SHADES COME
AT LAST TO
THE ORIGIN
OF ALL THINGS...

I'VE BROUGHT HIM TO THE
PRIMAL ATOM! SURELY HERE
THERE WILL BE A RELEASE
OF ENERGY TITANIC ENOUGH
TO BLAST HIS PSYCHO--
MATTER BODY!

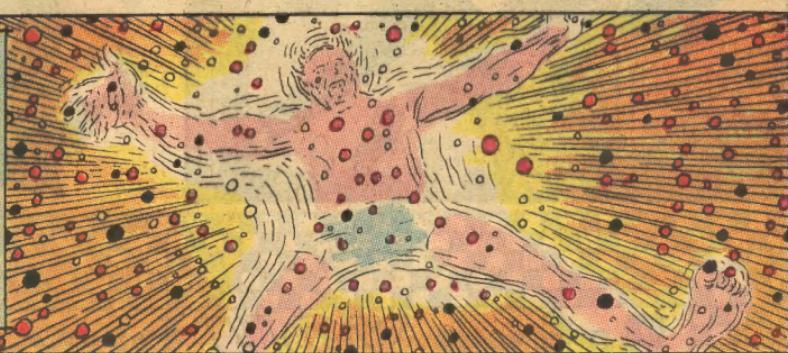


ONCE AGAIN--
AS THE
CREATIVE
FORCE STABS
DEEP INTO THE
ATOM, DEEP
ALSO DOES
THE SPECTRE
TOSSED
SHATHAN...

THERE IT GOES! I
MUST RACE THAT
EXPANDING
DETONATION
THROUGH TIME
ITSELF SO AS
NOT TO BE OVER-
TAKEN BY IT!



IN THAT MOST
AWESOME OF
ALL ENERGY
EXPLOSIONS,
THE ESSENCE
OF SHATHAN
THE ETERNAL
IS HURLED
OUTWARD--TO
BE SPREAD
ACROSS THE
VAST COSMOS
AND THE
EXPANDING
UNIVERSE FOR
ALL INFINITY...



HE CAN NEVER
REFORM HIM-
SELF, FOR HE
WILL ALWAYS BE
SPEEDING OUT-
WARD AT MORE
THAN A HUN-
DRED THOUSAND
MILES PER
SECOND--THE
SPEED OF THE
EXPANDING
UNIVERSE!

NOW THE SPECTRE RETURNS TO
THE ANCIENT TEMPLE, TO FIND
THAT WITH THE EXISTENCE--
ELIMINATION OF SHATHAN,
SHADOWS HAVE REJOINED
THE WORSHIPPERS...

I'LL BRING YOU ALL
BACK TO YOUR HOMES!
YOUR TROUBLES AND
FEARS ARE OVER!
GOOD HAS WON
OUT OVER EVIL!



AS THE LAST SHADOW VICTIM IS RETURNED...

THANKS, SPECTRE-- AND FAREWELL!

I FEEL PERIL MENACING MY PHYSICAL SELF-- JIM CORRIGAN! I MUST GET TO HIM AT ONCE!



BUT AS THE SPIRIT SLEUTH DROPS DOWN OVER GATEWAY CITY, HE SEES...

THE PERIL IS PAST! JIM HAS THINGS WELL UNDER CONTROL!



AS JIM SAVED THE CITY FROM LAWLESS MEN, SO I SAVED THE WORLD FROM AN EVIL DEMON! TOGETHER, WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR UNENDING EFFORTS TO MAKE EARTH AND ITS UNIVERSE SAFE FROM ANY THREAT!



Before **YOU** buy--
CHECK and
DOUBLE
CHECK!

SHOWCASE

scanned by *Wizard*

